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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Activity at the Templin and Lieberose Troop Training Grounds

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EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 30 June 1954

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REFERENCES 

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED

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1. Between 16 May and 4 June 1954, all was quiet at the Templin troop training grounds. No reports of infantry and artillery weapons were heard. Between 26 May and 31 May, engineer units arrived in the training area Densow and Annenwalde. Tank and AAA units were seen only occasionally. Traffic of individual vehicles to Camp Kannenburg from the direction of Prenzlau had discontinued. Only a few individual vehicles were seen in the training area. A motorized patrol controlled all motor vehicles in Templin on all days of observation. Detrained personnel were not permitted to leave their cars during the unloading at the Templin railroad station. Sentries were posted at the station immediately after the arrival of the trains. 25X1
2. Unloadings observed at the Templin railroad station included: 25X1
 

26 May. At 0930, a shipment of 23 trucks  tanks and 12 trucks towing 37-mm AA guns, which left toward Kannenburg. At 1600, a shipment of 18 trucks,  carrying 18 25X1

pontoons. An undetermined number of soldiers was also seen.

30 May. At 0800, a shipment of 8 trucks, 4 large trucks with pontoons and 2 amphibious vehicles, which subsequently left for the training area via Densow and Annenwalde. Truck  was seen with this shipment. 25X1

At about 1000 on 26 May, a column of 14 trucks  towing 4 AA guns  and 3 JS-1 tanks passed through Templin. The trucks were occupied to capacity by soldiers. At about 0600 on 31 May, a column of 11 trucks occupied by about 200 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epauletts with engineer insignia passed through Templin. The column came from the direction of Prenzlau-Eberswalde and proceeded toward Densow training area.  25X1
3. Between 16 May and 4 June, heavy vehicle traffic was observed at Camp Vogelsang. Almost all vehicles went toward Henderich. Trucks 25X1

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4. Between 16 May and 4 June, woods in the Beutel training area were cut down, allegedly to make room for a firing range. In [redacted] late May, the area was again put off limits. 25X1
5. During the night on 28 May, major tank columns passed through Storkow. The columns came from the south and, after crossing the Vogelsang - Hammelspring road proceeded toward Camp Vogelsang via Burgwallner Landstrasse. On 26 May, 3 T-34/85 tanks passed through Zehdenick. The column came from the direction of Gransee and proceeded toward Vogelsang via Kampbruecke. Between 18 and 29 May, heavy traffic of individual motor vehicles on Schwarzer Weg in and from the direction of Vogelsang was observed. At about 0910 on 31 May, a column of 12 to 15 trucks towing 85-mm AT guns [redacted] was seen en route toward Vogelsang. The column came from the direction of Zehdenick. 2 25X1
6. About 24 May, the Bau-Union Potsdam was put in charge of construction work at Camp Vogelsang. [redacted] construction work at Camp Vogelsang was planned through 1957. The entire area between Schulzen Fliess, Schwarzer Weg and the approach road to the camp branching off from Schwarzer Weg between Jagen (Forest Section) Nos. 189 and 190 was to be covered with buildings. In 1954, the construction of barracks buildings was to be started in Jagen Nos. 206 and 207 and in the northwest section of Jagen No. 189. Considerable amounts of construction materials including cement, lime and iron pipes arrived at the Vogelsang railroad station. The sawmill was to deliver 25,000 meters of roof laths prior to 31 May. According to another order, the sawmill was to deliver 140 cubic meters of timber for the present construction projects which include a hospital, a garage, a kitchen, and a warehouse. [redacted] a total of 75,000 meters of roof laths would be needed for the construction program. 3 25X1
7. At about 1130 on 5 June, a column of 10 x 132-mm rocket launchers [redacted] was seen on Schwarzer Weg going toward Camp Vogelsang. About 1030 on 9 June, a column of 10 armored personnel carriers passed through Vogelsang. The column [redacted] from the direction of Zehdenick and went toward Templin. On 8 June [redacted] large motor vehicle columns passed through Vogelsang during the preceding night. The column came from the direction of Zehdenick and went toward Templin. At about 1100 on 9 June, an undetermined number of soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were loaded on 8 to 10 boxcars, and 18 AA guns and 30 to 40 trucks with billeting equipment and ammunition were loaded on 35 to 40 flatcars at the Templin railroad station. The shipment had presumably come from Camp Vogelsang. 25X1
8. Between 31 May and 3 June, reports of artillery pieces and machine guns were heard daily from the Tangersdorf firing range. No reports were heard from there between 28 and 30 May and between 4 and 5 June. 25X1

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9. In late May, the units stationed in the camp northeast of Jamlitz in the Lieberose training area presumably completed preparing quarters and started regular training. During the night on 28 May, a major exercise was held in the training area. Reports of machine guns, submachine guns and carbines were heard throughout the night. The exercise ended at 1000 on 29 May. In the morning on 28 May, 5 T-34/85 tanks were entrained at the spurtrack of the camp. Loadings of additional tanks, guns and trucks at the spur track of the camp were observed during the week preceding Whitsunday. It was rumored among Russian civilians that these shipments were bound for the Berlin area and that the units involved were to be employed in security missions during the Whitsun Rally and the anniversary of the June demonstrations. During the night on 4 June, a major exercise was conducted in the training area. Firing and the noise of track-laying vehicles were heard throughout the night. In the morning on 5 June, at least 20 very dusty tanks were seen driving in the training area. All was quiet at about 1000. 4

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10. Between 28 May and 2 June, it was learned that the ban on alcoholic beverages for EM had been extended and that officers were permitted to buy alcoholic beverages only on Saturdays and Sundays. Drunken officers had repeatedly been beaten up by EM at dusk.

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1. Comment. Between 26 and 31 May, units of the 6th Gds Mech Div from Bernau probably started to be rotated to the Templin training grounds. [redacted] elements of the 35th Gds Mech Regt, the 120th (?) AAA Regt and the 22d Gds Engr Bn participated in the movement. [redacted] at least 2 shipments each went from Bernau to Templin on 26 May and from Templin to Bernau on 30 May.

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2. Comment. The information indicates that units of the 25th Tank Div and the 71st Light Arty Brig (US) held exercises in the training area between 16 May and 4 June.

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3. [redacted] 25X1

4. Comment. The present information indicates that units of the 7th Gds Mech Div, according to training schedule, started with night exercises of mixed units at the Lieberose troop training grounds on 28 May. In late May and early June, other units of the division were retransferred to their quartering area, presumably for employment in security missions in connection with the Whitsun Rally and the anniversary of the June Demonstrations. This confirms [redacted] 4 shipments of tanks, guns and motor vehicles went from Lieberose to Fuerstenwalde between 22 May and 5 June.

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